

Higher Education Committee

Senator Tom O'Halleran, Chairman



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HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

LEGISLATION ENACTED

schools; dual enrollment reforms (NOW: dual enrollment reforms; community colleges) (S.B. 1068) – Chapter 229

Makes numerous changes to dual enrollment statutes. The major provisions include:

Admission Requirements – Broadens the community college admission requirements for students under the age of 18, exempting home school students and students enrolled in vocational courses, to include completion of course requisites and one of the following: 1) minimum composite scores on either the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test, Scholastic Aptitude Test, American College Test or the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards Test; 2) college placement test; or 3) high school graduation or certificate of equivalency.

Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) – Requires, beginning for school year 2008-2009, the IGAs entered into by the community colleges and the K-12 schools to be uniform in format and to include: 1) financial provisions and billing; 2) distribution of full-time student equivalent funding; 3) student tuition and financial aid policies; 4) types of academic instruction and courses; and 5) responsibilities, services and accountability required.

Reporting – Delays the reporting date of the annual report submitted to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) from September 1 to October 1 and expands the report to include: 1) a listing of faculty advisory committee members; 2) scholarship and grant awards; 3) course level data; 4) IGA addendums; and 5) itemized actual program costs. Requires the JLBC by August 1 to notify each community college district to report a specified percentage of its executed IGAs to the JLBC by October 1.

Ad Hoc Committee – Allows, instead of requires, the JLBC to convene an ad hoc committee every two years.

postsecondary education grants; implementation (S.B. 1069) – Chapter 280

Makes numerous changes to the Postsecondary Education Grant (PEG) and creates the Early Graduation Scholarship Program (Program). The major provisions include:

Postsecondary Education Grant – Modifies the PEG eligibility requirements so that the student must only meet one of the following: 1) graduation from an in-state private or public high school; 2) completion of the equivalent of grade 12 in a home school program; 3) attainment of a general equivalency diploma; 4) current residency and a resident for the past year; and 5) member or spouse or dependent of a member of the United States armed forces. Expands the PEG eligibility requirements to include proof of high school graduation. Excludes an employee of a private postsecondary institution from receiving the PEG if the employee is eligible for a tuition reimbursement or waiver as an employment benefit.

Early Graduation Scholarship Program – Creates the Program at each school district or charter high school to provide scholarships to eligible pupils for in-state private or public postsecondary instruction. An eligible pupil may receive a sum of \$2,000 over two academic years,

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or the actual costs for tuition, books and fees, whichever is less, if the pupil graduates at least one year early, or up to \$1,500 if a pupil graduates at least one semester early. To qualify, a student must: 1) graduate at least one semester early; 2) pass the high school Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards test; 3) be a current resident and a resident for the last 12 months; 4) provide an invoice detailing the cost of tuition, books and fees; 5) complete a free application for student aid; and 6) sign a promissory note to repay the full scholarship amount if the pupil is not in good academic standing or no longer enrolled in postsecondary instruction. The school district or charter school continues to receive annual per pupil funding for the pupil until the pupil's scheduled graduation date, of which a specified amount is deposited into the Early Graduation Scholarship Fund to be used for scholarship awards and up to five percent for expenses incurred by the Arizona Commission for Postsecondary Education to implement and administer the program. Allows the pupil to participate at no cost in extracurricular activities until the pupil's scheduled graduation date and high school graduation ceremonies.

provisional community college districts; continuation (H.B. 2193) – Chapter 13

Removes the termination date of July 1, 2009, for the provisional community college district program.

higher education; budget reconciliation (NOW: budget reconciliation; higher education) (H.B. 2791) – Chapter 265

SEE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

VETOES

parking agreements; technical correction (NOW: early graduation scholarship program; funding) (S.B. 1183) – VETOED

SEE EDUCATION K-12 COMMITTEE.